Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Advances in transplant technology enable recipients to live longer, better lives; and,

Whereas, Over 50 lives can be saved or enhanced by just one organ and tissue donation; and,

Whereas, Organ and tissue donation truly is the "Gift of Life"; and,

Whereas, In the United States, 16 people die needlessly every day waiting for the "Gift of Life"; and,

Whereas, In the United States, 81,000 citizens are waiting for an organ donation, 2,600 of those people live in our region; and,

Whereas, Throughout South Dakota, thousands of our citizens have registered to be organ donors, but we need more; and,

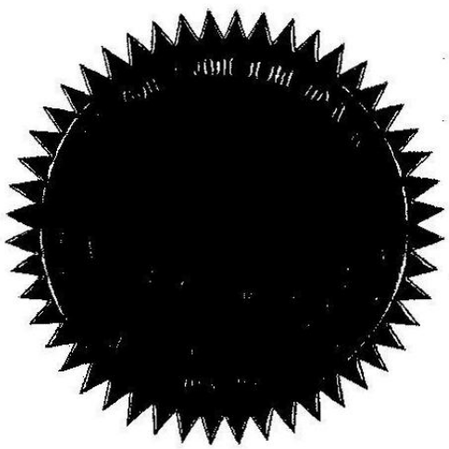
Whereas, Every major religion in the United States supports organ donation; and,

Whereas, It is appropriate to honor living donors and deceased donors and their families across South Dakota for their courage and generosity, and to encourage all South Dakotans to follow these heroic examples:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 2004 as

DONOR & TISSUE AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Seventeenth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State